

member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , of greater than one; and

a traction sheave driven by a machine and over which the tension member passes, the traction sheave including a traction surface configured to receive the engagement surface of the tension member between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave such that traction between the traction surface of the sheave and the tension member in a region between the take-up and take-off points is transmitted through the polyurethane coating to the load carrying rope and moves the car and counterweight.

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The foregoing amendments are believed to place the application into condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal. The amendments were not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed the claims to be allowable in their earlier form. Accordingly, Applicants request entry and consideration of the amendments.

Claims 23 - 33, 35 and 38 - 43 are pending (25 - 27, 40, 42 and 43 have been withdrawn). Claim 23 is the sole independent claim, and has been amended to even more clearly define the invention in a manner that distinguishes over the art.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the personal interview that Examiners Lillis and Tran conducted on August 7, 2001, with Applicant Hugh O'Donnell and Applicants' undersigned representative. During that interview, the rejection of claim 23 was discussed.

Claims 23, 24, 28-30, 35 and 39 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over GB 2 162 283 A (GB '283) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,624,097 (Wilcox). Claims 31-33, 38 and 40 variously stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the foregoing combination further in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 3,910,559 (Sapozhnikov et al.) or further in view of either U.S. Patent No. 3,279,762 (Bruns) or U.S. Patent No. 5,881,843 (O'Donnell et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.